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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Italy/Austria

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Communist Activity in the South Tirol

INFO.

DIST. 19 February 1947

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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EVALUATION OF SOURCE

1. It is reported that a number of Yugoslav agents have recently arrived in the South Tirol to reinforce the local Communists.
2. Leaders of the South Tirol Volkspartei (SVP) state that the local Communists have become much more active of late. Their main objective is apparently to discredit the SVP and thus force its liquidation. With this in view the Communists are reportedly collaborating with the other opposition groups in the South Tirol. Herr Lechner, the Communist leader in Bressanone, is said to have joined the local Edelweiss group (a clandestine German youth movement with Nazi leanings) and become a leading spokesman at its meetings.
3. Max Wachtler of Merano, one of the very few South Tirolese Prisoners of War to have been released from Yugoslavia, is allegedly one of the most active Communists in the region.
4. However, according to Dr. Volgger of the SVP Silvio Flor who was recently expelled from the local Communist Party continues to be one of the most convinced and fanatical Communists in the South Tirol. Flor, who was in Moscow at one time, now writes for the new Italian-supported Bozener Zeitung.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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